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Looking North and Finding A World of Success in Business

UB Law Forum

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as being the first word when it comes to advising and counseling lawyers on how to build a successful and fulfilling and helpful legal career. He frequently reminds us to take seriously our obligations to our clients and to the court, but not to take ourselves too seriously. Most of all, he reminds us to balance our professional obligations with the needs of one's family and oneself.

"He's a regular attendee and participant at legal events big and small. He'll be seen at retirement parties, bench and

lawyers and the law, and "possesses a wonderful humanity. He gets the fact that the law is about people." He also praised Pigott's service to the Law School as a guest lecturer and mentor and as a longtime member of the Dean's Advisory Council.

In accepting the Jaeckle Award, Pigott noted how difficult the job of attorney can be. "If doctors were like lawyers, that would mean if they're there to take out your appendix, there's a doctor on the other side of the table trying to keep

it in," he said. "It's a tough business, and the fact that we can keep our civility and our fraternity is amazing. What we do for people is incredible.

"I have such great regard for what you do and how you do it," he said to the lawyers in the audience. "My theme over the last five or six years in CLEs is, you've got to take care of yourself. It's like a sport. You have to be physically ready; you have to feel good when you're

doing this work, otherwise you just start to drag. You are in a profession that is unparalleled on earth, that does things no one else can do, that solves problems in the best way they can possibly be solved."



Hon. Eugene F. Pigott Jr. '73

bar picnics and social gatherings and memorial services, Law School moot court competitions, Law School Commencement exercises and many other events. He is uncommon for his common touch and his common sense, and for that we are very grateful."

"The judge embodies everything that one could hope for in a jurist," Dean Mutua commented in his remarks. "He's intelligent, he's fair, and he's dedicated to the law. But he's also fiercely dedicated to our Law School."

Mutua noted that Pigott loves

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As **Victor Pérez Urbán** looked to a future in international business, he knew that an additional U.S. law degree would be a key qualification. After much research, he found himself in a New York state of mind.

A law graduate of Universidad Panamericana, Urbán was director of procedures for the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit in Mexico's Office of the General Tax Attorney.

"I had decided to move from public service to private practice," Urbán says. "I was looking for a master's degree in law in the U.S. I evaluated different options, focusing especially in New York State, because to pursue a career in corporate law it was necessary to learn New York law. New York law is very useful for a foreign lawyer, because it's so important in international transactions. It's a body of law that is used in contracts all over the world." Urbán now serves as senior legal counsel for a business that works in more than 50 countries worldwide.

In his new position, Urbán still oversees the company's tax work. But his main focus is in transactional law. He negotiates and oversees contracts for the sourcing of materials and services, including involvement in the competitive bidding process; manages contracts with the company's information technology suppliers; and ensures that data privacy is being respected.

Urbán says he and his family still have fond memories of their time in Buffalo, and he is working with Law School staff to spread the word about the opportunities available at SUNY Buffalo Law School for lawyers and would-be lawyers in other countries.



Urbán notes the Buffalo program grounds students in the U.S. common law system, a valuable addition to the civil law training in Mexico and many other countries.